

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1, 11, and 21 as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

a calendar application storing schedule information corresponding to a given user, wherein said schedule information is indicative of an activity status of said given user at one or more given times, and wherein for at least a particular one of said one or more given times, said activity status includes a corresponding event title that is specifically descriptive of said given user's activity at said particular time;

querying said calendar application for said schedule information;

determining, for said particular each given time, whether a current presence state, which is associated with said given user and is specific to an instant messenger client, corresponds to said activity status indicated by said schedule information corresponding to said given user; and

in response to determining that the current presence state specific to the instant messenger client does not correspond to said activity status indicated by said schedule information, automatically assigning and storing a different presence state in association with said given user without intervention by said given user, such that subsequent to automatically assigning said different presence state to said given user, said different presence state is indicated by said instant messenger client as said given user's current presence state;

wherein said different presence state indicated by said instant messenger client for said given user that corresponds to said activity status indicated by said

schedule information of said calendar application for said particular time;  
and, wherein said current presence state and said different presence state  
each correspond to said given user, and

wherein said different presence state corresponding to said activity status of said  
particular time is indicative of at least a portion of said corresponding  
event title included in said activity status, such that said different presence  
state indicated by said instant messenger client is descriptive of said given  
user's activity at said particular time according to said schedule  
information stored by said calendar application.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said calendar application is compliant with the Internet Calendaring and Scheduling Core Object Specification standard (RFC 2445).

4. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein querying said schedule information comprises accessing said calendar application via a uniform resource locator (URL).

5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to an engaged state in response to detecting an engaged activity status of said given user.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to an online state in response to detecting an available activity status of said given user.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to a state determined by said schedule information.

8. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

detecting a computer system activity level indicative of computer system activity;

determining whether said activity level exceeds an activity threshold in response to said detecting; and

transitioning the presence state specific to said instant messenger client to a busy state in response to determining that said activity level exceeds said activity threshold, wherein said presence state corresponds to said given user.

9. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

receiving an instant messaging operation directed to said given user, wherein said given user is not offline;

determining the presence state specific to said instant messenger client in response to receiving said instant messaging operation; and

selectively processing said instant messaging operation dependent upon said presence state in response to said determining.

10. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

storing an instant messaging operation associated with a given presence state of said instant messenger client, wherein said given presence state corresponds to the given user;

detecting a transition to said given presence state subsequent to said storing; and

performing said instant messaging operation in response to said detecting.

11. (Currently amended) A computer-accessible storage medium, comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to:

query a calendar application that stores schedule information corresponding to a given user, wherein said schedule information is indicative of an activity status of said given user at one or more given times, and wherein for at least a particular one of said one or more given times, said activity status includes a corresponding event title that is specifically descriptive of said given user's activity at said particular time;

determine, for said particular each given time, whether a current presence state, which is associated with said given user and is specific to an instant messenger client, corresponds to said activity status indicated by said schedule information corresponding to said given user; and

in response to determining that the current presence state specific to the instant messenger client does not correspond to said activity status indicated by said schedule information, automatically assign and store a different presence state in association with said given user without intervention by said given user, such that subsequent to automatically assigning said different presence state to said given user, said different presence state is indicated by said instant messenger client as said given user's current presence state;

wherein said different presence state indicated by said instant messenger client for  
said given user that corresponds to said activity status indicated by said  
schedule information of said calendar application for said particular time;  
and - wherein said current presence state and said different presence state  
each correspond to said given user, and

wherein said different presence state corresponding to said activity status of said  
particular time is indicative of at least a portion of said corresponding  
event title included in said activity status, such that said different presence  
state indicated by said instant messenger client is descriptive of said given  
user's activity at said particular time according to said schedule  
information stored by said calendar application.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 11, wherein said calendar application is compliant with the Internet Calendaring and Scheduling Core Object Specification standard (RFC 2445).

14. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 11, wherein querying said schedule information comprises accessing said calendar application via a uniform resource locator (URL).

15. (Original) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 11, wherein assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to an engaged state in response to detecting an engaged activity status of said given user.

16. (Original) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 11, wherein assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to an online state in response to detecting an available activity status of said given user.

17. (Original) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 11, wherein assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to a state determined by said schedule information.

18. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 11, wherein said program instructions are further computer-executable to:

detect a computer system activity level indicative of computer system activity;

determine whether said activity level exceeds an activity threshold in response to said detecting; and

transition the presence state specific to said instant messenger client to a busy state in response to determining that said activity level exceeds said activity threshold, wherein said presence state corresponds to the given user.

19. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 11, wherein said program instructions are further computer-executable to:

receive an instant messaging operation directed to said given user, wherein said given user is not offline;

determine the presence state specific to said instant messenger client in response to receiving said instant messaging operation; and

selectively process said instant messaging operation dependent upon said presence state in response to said determining.

20. (Previously presented) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 11, wherein said program instructions are further computer-executable to:

store an instant messaging operation associated with a given presence state of said instant messenger client, wherein said given presence state corresponds to the given user;

detect a transition to said given presence state subsequent to said storing; and

perform said instant messaging operation in response to said detecting.

21. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:

a computer system;

computer-accessible storage comprising program instructions for an instant messenger software module configured to execute on said computer system; and

computer-accessible storage comprising program instructions for a calendar application software module computer-executable to store schedule information corresponding to a given user, wherein said schedule information is indicative of an activity status of said given user at one or more given times, and wherein for at least a particular one of said one or more given times, said activity status includes a corresponding event title that is specifically descriptive of said given user's activity at said particular time, and further computer-executable to respond to queries of said schedule information from said instant messenger software module;

wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

query said schedule information; and

determine, for said particular each given time, whether a current presence state, which is associated with said given user and is specific to an instant messenger client, corresponds to said activity status indicated by said schedule information corresponding to said given user; and

in response to determining that the current presence state specific to said instant messenger software module does not correspond to said activity status indicated by said schedule information, automatically assign and store a different presence state in association with said given user without intervention by said given user, such that subsequent to automatically assigning said different presence state to said given user, said different presence state is indicated by said instant messenger client as said given user's current presence state;

wherein said different presence state indicated by said instant messenger client for said given user that corresponds to said activity status indicated by said schedule information of said calendar application for said particular time; and, wherein said current presence state and said different presence state each correspond to said given user, and

wherein said different presence state corresponding to said activity status of said particular time is indicative of at least a portion of said corresponding event title included in said activity status, such that said different presence state indicated by said instant messenger client is descriptive of said given user's activity at said particular

time according to said schedule information stored by said calendar application.

22. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said calendar application software module and said instant messenger software module are integrated into a common software module.

23. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said calendar application software module is compliant with the Internet Calendaring and Scheduling Core Object Specification standard (RFC 2445).

24. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to access said calendar application software module via a uniform resource locator (URL).

25. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to an engaged state in response to detecting an engaged activity status of said given user.

26. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to an online state in response to detecting an available activity status of said given user.

27. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to a state determined by said schedule information.

28. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

detect a computer system activity level indicative of computer system activity;

determine whether said activity level exceeds an activity threshold in response to said detecting; and

transition the presence state specific to said instant messenger software module to a busy state in response to determining that said activity level exceeds said activity threshold, wherein said presence state corresponds to a given user.

29. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

receive an instant messaging operation directed to said given user, wherein said given user is not offline;

determine the presence state specific to said instant messenger software module in response to receiving said instant messaging operation; and

selectively process said instant messaging operation dependent upon said presence state in response to said determining.

30. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

store an instant messaging operation associated with a given presence state of said instant messenger software module, wherein said given presence state corresponds to said given user;

detect a transition to said given presence state subsequent to said storing; and

perform said instant messaging operation in response to said detecting.